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Rival Camps in Same Hotel Hunt Electronic Snoopers

San Francisco, July 7 — The Goldwater forces are snooping for Scranton electronic ears which might be "listening" for Goldwater secrets.

And the Scranton side two floors down in the Mark Hopkins Hotel is snooping for any Goldwater ears straining for Scranton convention strategy.

Both Goldwater and Scranton headquarters are crammed into four floors in the hotel.

Each is afraid that the other has planted some kind of listening device outside the other's windows.

James M. Day, Goldwater operations director and a Central Intelligence Agency man for four years, refused to discuss reports that the Goldwater forces had rented several ear-jamming devices for installation in Goldwater's \$112-a-day suite on the 15th floor of the Hopkins.

He said only, "We recognize the situation exists."

Black Boxes Rented

However, it was learned that Goldwater men were renting some electronics - crammed boxes the size of small radios to keep any tin ears from picking up Goldwater conversations. The devices are used to blot an electronic recording and are not intended to be used to counter telephone wire taps.

A source in the Goldwater headquarters said like devices have been used in the senator's Washington campaign headquarters.

He described them as "black boxes," which emit silent "static" to distort the sound of con-

versation for any listening devices.

How many such boxes had the Goldwater forces rented?

"Enough," he said.

Two floors down, the Scranton forces also talked darkly about electronic sneaks "up there." And a Scranton staff member jerked his thumb up in the direction of Goldwater headquarters.

Welter of Wires

Both sides look distrustfully at the welter of telephone and TV cable strung through the hotel, fearful that somebody might have planted a listening device somewhere in the almost three miles of wiring.

"We could be looking right at it and we wouldn't know it," said a Scranton staff member.

The cable, some of it thicker than garden hose, writhes up the stairwell of the fire escape, snakes out windows and over wrought-iron window boxes. The whole building is festooned with it. Dish-shaped TV receivers perch on ledges high above the street where the upper floors are set back from the building line.

Goldwater and Scranton staffs patrol their headquarters to make sure no TV camera has been emplaced on a ledge to peer into the Goldwater suite where the senator and his aides will talk grand strategy amid Chinese prints, lamps and white parchment sliding panels hiding the bar, or into the walnut-paneled Scranton suite.

Plans Secret

So intense has mutual suspicion become that neither camp will discuss its plans for tele-

phone and walkie-talkie communication between the convention floor and command headquarters housed in green and white trailers outside.

Armed guards patrol the trailers as Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co. workmen install equipment.

Carl Erickson, PT&T man directing the telephone installation, said "a lot of people are convinced that communications won for Kennedy in 1960. And everybody here is convinced that he has some gadget the other fellow doesn't know about."

Communications are probably the biggest single item of expense to both Goldwater and Scranton forces.

Each had to put up a \$4,000 deposit for PT&T installations. "Before it's all over, we figure that it will come to about \$25,000, counting installation and use," said Day.

Each side figures to spend almost \$250,000 in the last round of the struggle between Goldwater and Scranton for the presidential nomination.

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